largely lies in these areas, India should get its due share in the overall gains of the Uruguay Round agreement in these sectors.

(d) The Eighth Five Year Plan, 1992—97 has envisaged an annual export growth of 13.6% in value terms or at 1991-92 prices leading to total exports of about US $ 3.5 billion, by the terminal year of the plan.

Increasing World-wide Demand for Tobacco

1815. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Tobacco Board has noted that world-wide demand for tabacco is increasing every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that world-wide demand for tobacco has increased at 2% per year during the last three years;

(c) whether the Tobacco Board has studied these trends ;

(d) how does the Tobacco Board propose to evolve a strategy to take advantage of this increasing world-wide demand of tobacco ; and

(e) the details of any strategy formulated so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Overall consumption of unmanufactured tobacco in the world has on an average increased by nearly 3.7% annually in the last three years ;

(c) to (e) Some of the measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Tobacco Board inter-alia include :

(i) Reorienting production and developmental strategies in accordance with the changing international needs ;

(ii) Enhancing quality and productivity levels of Indian tobacco and reducing its production cost to make it more price competitive in international markets ;

(iii) Regular monitoring and strict control of pesticide residues ;

(iv) Encouraging grading by farmers in line with international grading systems.

Improvement of Looksan Tea Gardens, Jalpaiguri

1816. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE :

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether any plan or programme has been undertaken by TTCI for the improvement of productivity as well as profitability of Looksan Tea Gardens, and if so, what are the details in this regard ;

(b) if so, what action is being taken to increase the yield per hectare of the said garden and to improve its dilapidated plant and building conditions;

(c)) whether any plan has been made to use the available land in the said garden for new plantations;

(d) whether it is a fact that Provident Fund contribution amounting to more than Rs. 10 lacs have not been deposited by M/s Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (TTCI) for their Looksan Tea Unit in Jalpaiguri District (West Bengal) ;

(e) if so, whether it is also a fact that Provident Fund Authorities had to issue an order seizing the bank operations by the management of Looksan Tea Estate ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Following measures have been taken by Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. for improvement of production and profitability of Looksan Tea Estate :—

(i) One new CTC machine has been installed.

(ii) Plant and Machineries have been repaired.

(c) Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. has developed a nursery to cover another 5 hectres of areas under plantations in Looksan Tea Estate.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. The Provident Fund Authorities had issued order for seizure of bank operations of Looksan Tea Estate because of delay on the part of Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. to pay provident fund contributions. However, since the Corporation have cleared the arrears, these orders have been withdrawn.

निर्यात वर्धन पंजीगत माल योजना (एक्सपोर्ट प्रोमोशन कैपिटल गुड्स स्कीम)

1817. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :**

श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने पिछले कुछ वर्षों के दौरान निर्यात वर्धन पूंजीगत माल योजना शुरु करने की घोषणा की है ;